

Term Information

Effective Term Spring 2016

General Information

Course Bulletin Listing/Subject Area Near Eastrn Lang and Cultures
Fiscal Unit/Academic Org Near Eastern Languages/Culture - D0554
College/Academic Group Arts and Sciences
Level/Career Undergraduate
Course Number/Catalog 3111
Course Title Ancient Empires
Transcript Abbreviation Ancient Empires
Course Description Introduction to the history and cultures of the ancient empires of southwestern Asia, focusing on the period from the Assyrian and Persian Empires to the establishment of Islam (ca 900 BCE–ca 750 CE).
Semester Credit Hours/Units Fixed: 4

Offering Information

Length Of Course 14 Week, 12 Week (May + Summer)
Flexibly Scheduled Course Never
Does any section of this course have a distance education component? No
Grading Basis Letter Grade
Repeatable No
Course Components Recitation, Lecture
Grade Roster Component Lecture
Credit Available by Exam No
Admission Condition Course No
Off Campus Never
Campus of Offering Columbus

Prerequisites and Exclusions

Prerequisites/Corequisites ENGL 1110
Exclusions

Cross-Listings

Cross-Listings

Subject/CIP Code

Subject/CIP Code 05.0108
Subsidy Level Baccalaureate Course
Intended Rank Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior

Requirement/Elective Designation

General Education course:

Historical Study

The course is an elective (for this or other units) or is a service course for other units

Course Details

Course goals or learning objectives/outcomes

- Students will learn how to use ancient primary sources critically to create a historical narrative and to understand the modern appropriation of ancient history for political and other purposes.

Content Topic List

- the formation of early states
- the kingdoms of Mesopotamia, Anshan and the Elamites
- the Achaemenid dynasty
- Alexander and his successors
- the Parthian and Sasanian Persian empires and their rivalries with Rome
- the empires of Afghanistan and the kingdom of Armenia.

Attachments

- NELC 3111 Assessing GE Outcomes.doc: GE assessment plan
(GEC Course Assessment Plan. Owner: Acome,Justin)
- NELC 3111 GE Rationale.docx: GE rationale
(GEC Model Curriculum Compliance Stmt. Owner: Acome,Justin)
- NELC Concurrence letter.docx: Classics concurrence letter
(Concurrence. Owner: Acome,Justin)
- Dept. of History concurrence email.pdf: History concurrence email
(Concurrence. Owner: Acome,Justin)
- van Bladel N3111 comments.pdf: faculty comments
(Other Supporting Documentation. Owner: Acome,Justin)
- [DRAFT] NELC 3111 syllabus 8.4.15.pdf: syllabus
(Syllabus. Owner: Acome,Justin)

Comments

• 8/10 comments:

course does not satisfy any requirements or serve as elective for any existing NELC minor or major; no existing curriculum maps are affected.

8/4/15 comments:

Notes from proposing faculty:

1. I have added a few lines to explain why it's possible to earn more than 100 points. ... [M]y method of grading is a specific, tried-and-true practice of "learner-centered teaching" in which students earn points toward a goal and don't feel that they are "losing points" from a given 100 in every assignment. ... [I] am happy to meet with the curriculum committee of the College or whoever in order to explain this practice, which is employed by teachers at many institutions.

2. It's not that missing a 20% exam would make the student fail. It's that the 20 points possible from the final exam is not enough to pass the course. As it says, every assignment but the final exam is optional. No student, however, should assume that he can pass by the final exam alone. *(by Acome,Justin on 08/10/2015 01:08 PM)*

• I believe that a curricular map is required for a new course. *(by Heysel,Garett Robert on 08/06/2015 06:15 PM)*

Workflow Information

Status	User(s)	Date/Time	Step
Submitted	Acome,Justin	08/04/2015 04:04 PM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	Acome,Justin	08/04/2015 04:04 PM	Unit Approval
Revision Requested	Heysel,Garett Robert	08/06/2015 06:15 PM	College Approval
Submitted	Acome,Justin	08/10/2015 01:09 PM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	Acome,Justin	08/10/2015 01:09 PM	Unit Approval
Approved	Heysel,Garett Robert	08/11/2015 04:21 PM	College Approval
Pending Approval	Nolen,Dawn Vankeerbergen,Bernadette Chantal Hanlin,Deborah Kay Jenkins,Mary Ellen Bigler Hogle,Danielle Nicole	08/11/2015 04:21 PM	ASCCAO Approval

Ancient Empires

NELC 3111 Autumn 2016 (4 credit hours)

The History and Cultures of the Empires
of Iran, Iraq, Syria, Armenia, and Afghanistan
from Cyrus to Muhammad

Lectures MoWeFr 11:30–12:25 Location TBA
and one weekly recitation section



cameo of Persian King of Kings Shapur I defeating the Roman Emperor Valerian on a sardonyx gemstone

Professor Kevin van Bladel (vanbladel.2@osu.edu)

Office hours Hagerty Hall 300G, MW 1–2 and by appt.

GTAs: **John Smith** (smith.882@osu.edu; Office hours TW 1–2, Location TBA)

Jean Jones (jones.432@osu.edu; Office hours F 2–4, Location TBA)

GE Credit and Learning Goals

This course fulfills the **GE Historical Study** category. Expected learning outcomes:

1. Students construct an integrated perspective on history and the factors that shape human activity.
2. Students describe and analyze the origins and nature of contemporary issues.
3. Students speak and write critically about primary and secondary historical sources by examining diverse interpretations of past events and ideas in their historical contexts.

Students will learn fundamental elements of historical sociology to classify and organize information about the earliest territorially extensive ancient states and the peoples they governed. Readings include both primary sources in translation from a variety of ancient languages and non-textual material remains seen in photographs, all analyzed in class and in secondary readings. All sources will be studied and discussed according to their genre and their transmission, survival, or recovery. Many of the events covered in this course

contributed decisively to the demography of the present-day Near East and the social characteristics of its people, from the distribution of language communities to the variety of Near Eastern religions. Students will consider modern manifestations of and parallels to the ancient phenomena studied in this class and reflect on the means and motives for modern persons to identify themselves with ancient social groups. A pervasive question in this course is how we today know about the past and how we interpret it. Students will compose papers and participate in discussions to practice historically informed critical thinking, having studied ample primary materials, and employ methods for interpreting them.

Course Description

This is an introduction to the history and cultures of the ancient empires of southwestern Asia, focusing on the period from the Assyrian and Persian Empires to the establishment of Islam (ca 900 BCE–ca 750 CE). Students will learn how to use ancient primary sources critically to create a historical narrative and to understand the modern appropriation of ancient history for political and other purposes.

Major topics include the formation of early states, the kingdoms of Mesopotamia, Anshan and the Elamites, the Achaemenid dynasty, Alexander and his successors, the Parthian and Sasanian Persian empires and their rivalries with Rome, as well as the empires of Afghanistan and the kingdom of Armenia. The course will include an introduction to the geography of southwestern Asia and a survey of languages, Iranian and other religions, and some ancient literature from a variety of cultures. Extensive readings of primary sources will include classical Greek and Latin authors, as well as works composed in Iran, from royal inscriptions to neighboring Armenian and Aramaic sources chronicling war and strife. Finally we will explain how the population of Iran and its neighbors became predominantly Muslim. Two major themes will be the nature of empires and the use and interpretation of primary written materials to reconstruct past cultures.

Required Course Books (available at SBX, 1806 North High St.)

1. Curtis, J.E., and N. Tallis, *Forgotten Empire: The World of Ancient Persia*, University of California Press / British Museum Press 2005.
2. Herodotus, *The Histories*, trans. Robin Waterfield, Oxford 1998.
3. Xenophon, *The Persian Expedition*, trans. Rex Warner, Penguin 1950.
4. Dignas, Beate, and Engelbert Winter, *Rome and Persia in Late Antiquity: Neighbours and Rivals*, Cambridge University Press 2007.
5. Course Reader (available at SBX)
 - (a) Grayson, A. Kirk, "Assyrian Rule of Conquered Territory in Ancient Western Asia," in Jack Sasson (ed.), *Civilizations of the Ancient Near East*, Scribner 1995, vol. 2, pp. 959–968.
 - (b) "Conquering and Ruling Pre-Modern Afghanistan," excerpt of Chapter 2 of Thomas Barfield, *Afghanistan: A Cultural and Political History*, Princeton University Press, 2010, pp. 66–90.
 - (c) "An Incidental Annexation" and "Rome, Syria, Parthians and Persians," from Kevin Butcher, *Roman Syria and the Near East*, Getty Publications/British Museum Press 2003, pp. 19–60.
 - (d) *2 Maccabees* (excerpted from New Oxford Annotated Bible 2nd ed., revised, Oxford University Press 1991, pp. 228–258).
 - (e) Ammianus Marcellinus, *The Later Roman Empire: A.D. 354–378*, trans. Walter Hamilton, pp. 148–175.

- (f) Procopius, *The Wars*, Book 1, chapters xiii–iv (pp. 103–129, odd pages only), trans. H. B. Dewing, Loeb Classical Library 1915.
- (g) Khalid Yahya Blankinship, “Jihad and the Caliphate before Hishām,” in *The End of the Jihād State: Hishām ibn ‘Abd al-Malik and the Collapse of the Umayyads*, pp. 11–35.

Readings available on the course Carmen site under Content

1. *The History of Lazar P‘arpec‘i*, trans. Robert Thomson, Scholars Press 1991, pp. 75–157.
2. *The Chronicle of Pseudo-Joshua the Stylite*, trans. by F. Trombley and J. Watt 2001. (Available on the course Carmen site and, together with the introduction and maps, as a free download through OSU’s library catalogue online: click “additional web content” at the online library record for this book, then enter your username and password, and you will reach the publisher’s page for the book where the whole volume can be downloaded as a pdf file.)

Online Resources

- Encyclopaedia Iranica online: www.iranicaonline.org [Containing articles on almost every subject we will touch on in the class. The website gives free access to the online version of the most important reference work on Iran ever compiled—paper version into the letter K as of this time.]
- www.avesta.org [archive of Old and Middle Iranian texts relevant to Zoroastrianism]
- www.livius.org/persia.html [a sort of mini-encyclopaedia of ancient Iran]

Course Opportunities and Grading

The only absolute requirement for this course is that you take the final exam, *although that is not in itself sufficient to pass the course* because alone it confers at most 20 points. All other tasks are optional. You may choose to do any combination of them, doing all or only some of the tasks, to earn the grade you want. Final grades are assigned on the following point scale:

A = 93 or higher, A- = 90–92, B+ = 87–89, B = 83–86, B- = 80–82, C+ = 77–79, C = 73–76, C- = 70–72, D+ = 67–69, D = 63–60, E = 0–59

The opportunities to earn points contributing toward your point total are listed below. Select the tasks you wish to perform for credit from the list below as items from a menu. I recommend writing the two main papers, taking the midterm exam and the final exam, and participating in discussion section every week (items 1–6). You will notice that one can, technically, earn more than 100 points. This is because most students will not earn all the possible points for any finished task, and students may choose to omit tasks with the exception of the final exam.

Opportunity	Max. Points Possible
1. first essay paper (6–8 pages) (due Week 6)	20
2. second essay paper (6–8 pages) (due Week 14)	20
3. quizzes in recitation section	12
4. recitation section participation in discussion	10
5. midterm exam (at lecture time on October 19)	20
6. required final exam (at scheduled time in lecture hall)	20
7. Old Persian Reading Exercises, optional (weeks 2–8)	5

NOTE Extensions to assignment deadlines are given only in the case of *documented medical emergency!*

Academic Misconduct

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed ; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct (<http://studentlife.osu.edu/csc/>).

Turnitin.com

To participate in this course, you will be required to submit your written work through our course Carmen website to Turnitin.com, a service employed by OSU to ensure the originality of students’ writing and to protect your writing from plagiarism by others. Instructions for submitting your paper to this service will be given in class. If you feel uncomfortable about this or are unwilling to follow this policy, you should seek another course.

Class Attendance Policy

Students should attend all lectures and recitation sections. Experience shows that students who attend and pay attention to both do well in this class. Participation in recitation sections is an opportunity to earn points in this course.

Please discuss excused absences from discussion section with your TA as early as possible. More than one absence may be grounds for reduction of your final grade by one-third of a

letter (for example, B to B-). More than three absences will result in a grade of “EN” for the course.

Disability policy

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.

General Instructions for Papers in this Course

You may write two essay papers for this course.

First Essay due September XXth (Week 6)

Second Essay due November XXth (Week 14)

- For a paper to count as turned in, you must submit BOTH a paper copy to me AND an electronic copy to the course Carmen site. If you do not do this, it will not be considered.
- Format all papers double-spaced with Times New Roman, 12-point font, 1" margins at top and bottom, 1.25" margins on sides. Make sure you proofread and spell-check. Spelling and grammar are considered in the evaluation.
- All papers must include references to any primary sources (including the texts we're reading for the course) and a bibliography of works consulted. Cite everything scrupulously.

First Essay Topic: The Persian Empire in a Museum.

Due Week 6.

Your course book *Forgotten Empire* is based on a major exhibition of ancient objects created and used in the Achaemenian Persian Empire. The exhibition was held in 2005 by the British Museum in collaboration with the National Museum of Iran and the Louvre. It includes photographs of the objects displayed along with detailed information about each object. As you study the catalogue of photographs, you are surveying many of the same materials that professional historians use today to reconstruct the history and culture of the Persian Empire. At the same time, the catalogue represents the selection of museum curators who wish to represent the Persian Empire as they imagine it for visitors to their museum.

Write an essay, 6–8 pages in length, discussing any patterns you can see in the selection and type of materials presented. What sorts of objects are included, and what sorts are not included? What are the reasons behind these patterns? What do these objects tell us about the history of the Persian Empire, and what do they leave out?

Second Essay Topic: The Historiography of the Chronicle of Pseudo-Joshua the Stylite.

Due Week 14.

The Chronicle of Joshua the Stylite, written in the Syriac dialect of Aramaic in the early sixth century CE, describes life in Mesopotamia and Syria during the wars between the Sasanian Persian and Roman Empires. Basing your analysis on a close reading of the text, discuss in 6–8 pages the author's purpose in writing this chronicle and describe his method as a historian. How does he interpret the events he describes in order to construct a narrative? How does he make sense of his own society's history? Explain your answers with specific examples from the text.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Schedule subject to change. All changes will be announced in class.

Week 1 (Aug 27, 29): Introduction. The Geographical Setting. Tradition, recovery, and archaeology.

- Reade, J. E., “The History of Assyria,” from *Art and Empire: Treasures from Assyria in the British Museum*, New York: The Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1995, pp. 17–31.

Online assignment this week:

Explore the British Museum website “Mesopotamia”

www.mesopotamia.co.uk/menu.html

Here you will find a lot of hyperlinked pages with information and images about ancient Mesopotamian cultures. Some of it is pretty basic, but you should get a sense of the materials available to historians to tell what life was like in this region in antiquity.

Make sure you click “Time” → “Story” (follow story on early archaeology)

“Writing” → “Story” (follow development of cuneiform writing)

“Assyria” → “Palaces” and “Warfare”

“Babylonia” → “Astronomers” and “Trade”

Feel free to explore the rest of the site, take your time, and have fun!

Discussion section: Introductions. Course expectations. Introducing Herodotus. Using the book *Forgotten Empire*.

Week 2 (No Lecture Sept 1 [Labor Day]; Sept 3 & 5): Assyrian and Median Empires. Cyrus.

- Grayson, A. Kirk, “Assyrian Rule of Conquered Territory in Ancient Western Asia,” pp. 959–968 (course reader).
- Read Herodotus, p. 3 and pp. 45–94 (sections [95] to [216]). [Here Herodotus gives the story of Cyrus and an account of Persian culture.]
- Read the “Nabonidus Cylinder” from Sippar at livius.org:
<http://www.livius.org/na-nd/nabonidus/cylinder.html>
- Read the “Nabonidus Chronicle” at livius.org:
http://www.livius.org/ct-cz/cyrus_I/babylon02.html
- Read the “Cyrus Cylinder” at livius.org. (Make sure to click to page two at the bottom of the first page. You can see a clear photograph of the Cyrus cylinder in *Forgotten Empires*, p. 59.)
http://www.livius.org/ct-cz/cyrus_I/cyrus_cylinder.html

Discussion Section: Discussion of Herodotus. Receive instructions for the two map quizzes. Expectations for the two term papers.

Week 3 (Sept 8, 10 & 12): Darius and his coup d'état. The Royal Inscriptions.

- Read *Forgotten Empire*, pp. 12–24.
- Read Herodotus, excerpts from book 3 (pp. 169–186 and pp. 195–234). [Herodotus gives his accounts of Cambyses and Darius I.]

Online assignment this week: Read the Royal Inscriptions of the Achaemenids.
(This is in addition to the readings listed above!)

www.livius.org/persia.html

This website is a mini-encyclopaedia on ancient Iran. You'll find it useful as a reference throughout the course. There are well-informed articles on important places, people, and different aspects of ancient Iran. Scroll to the bottom of the page to find the link "Royal inscriptions" (under the heading "Other"). Click the link to find a catalogue of the Achaemenid inscriptions.

1. Read DB (columns #1–#5) and DBa–k. Pay close attention; this is the most important document written for any Achaemenid king. Take a good look at the accompanying photographs of the reliefs.
2. Read DSf at the palace of Susa.
3. Read DNa and DNb on Darius' tomb at Naqš-i Rostam.
4. Also explore the links to the sites of Persepolis, Susa, and Naqš-i Rostam. Pay special attention to the photos of the inscriptions.
5. Now move on to the inscriptions of Xerxes I at Persepolis. Read XPa and XPh.
6. Finally, read some of the inscriptions of later Achaemenids. Take your time.

Questions to answer: Where were the inscriptions made? Locate them on a map. What messages do they offer? Why did the kings inscribe them? For whom were they written?

Discussion Section: Map Quiz 1: Modern Southwest Asia. Discussion of readings including the online assignment.

Week 4 (Sept 15, 17 & 19): The Royal Court and Administration of the Achaemenids.

- Read and study *Forgotten Empire*, pp. 50–149 [this is 18 pages of text; the rest is images] and pp. 181–199.
- Read Herodotus, pp. 404–531. [This is Herodotus' famous account of Xerxes' invasion of Greece.]

Discussion Section: Map Quiz 2: Ancient Southwest Asia. Introducing Xenophon. Discussion of readings.

Week 5 (Sept 22, 24 & 26): The Persians and the Greeks.

- Read *Forgotten Empire*, pp. 236–249.
- Read Xenophon's *Persian Expedition*, pp. 55–211.

Discussion Section: Discussion of readings. Workshop for first essay paper.

Week 6 (Sept 29, Oct 1 & 3): Establishing and Maintaining Frontiers Internal and External.

- *Paper 1 due on Monday, September 29th!* The Persian Empire in a Museum.
- Wednesday, October 1st: in-class video excerpts of the documentary “Grass” with commentary
- Read “Conquering and Ruling Pre-Modern Afghanistan,” from Thomas Barfield, *Afghanistan: A Cultural and Political History*, pp. 66–89. This reading does not deal with the Persian Empire per se, but it consists of comparative and theoretical material essential for understanding the contents of this course.
- Read *Forgotten Empire*, pp. 210–235. (This is just 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ pages of text; the rest is images of objects with captions. Focus on understanding the organization of transport and warfare in the Persian Empire.)

Discussion Section: Greek views of the Persian Empire. Discussion of readings.

Week 7 (Oct 6, 8 & 10): The Aftermath of Alexander. The Seleucids, the Parthians, and Roman Annexation of Syria.

- Read “An Incidental Annexation” and “Rome, Syria, Parthians and Persians,” from Kevin Butcher, *Roman Syria and the Near East*, pp. 19–60 (course reader).
- Read article at Encyclopaedia Iranica Online: “BAKTIĀRĪ TRIBE i. Ethnography” <http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/baktiari-tribe>, by J.-P. Digard. This is a follow-up to the documentary “Grass” that we watched Oct 1st. You need to read the first part down to the first bibliography and no further; this is the equivalent of about eight pages in a Word document. When you read this article, you should pay particular attention to the interaction of the pastoralist Bakhtiari people and the governments of sedentary Iran. You will be discussing this reading in your section meetings.

Discussion Section: Discussion of readings. “Alexander the Great”?

Week 8 (Oct 13, 15 & 17): Midterm. Rome, the Parthians, and the Buffer States.

MIDTERM EXAMINATION: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17

- Read *2 Maccabees* (course reader).

Online assignment this week: Browse Parthia.com.

www.parthia.com

This is essentially a scholarly fan site for the ancient Parthian kingdom. It contains maps, essays, and extensive bibliography. Start by browsing the site to see what's there.

One of the main primary sources available from the Parthian kingdom is coins, together with a limited number of art objects and durable luxury goods. What can you learn by studying the online coin catalogue and other information on this website?

Write a concise summary of your findings (no more than a page) to discuss in your section meeting. What do these coins tell us about the Parthian dominion?

Discussion Section: Review for midterm exam. Telling history from everyday objects and coins.

Week 9 (Oct 20, 22 & 24): The Rise of the Sasanids of Persia until the defeat of Narse (third century CE).

- Read Dignas and Winter, pp. 9–32, pp. 53–62, pp. 70–88, pp. 119–130.

Online assignment this week: Study the Sasanian Rock Reliefs.

(This is in addition to the readings listed above!)

www.livius.org/persia.html

This is the same website where you read the Achaemenid inscriptions. Now you are looking at inscriptions and rock carvings from hundreds of years later, portraying the Sasanian kings. Go to the bottom of the page and click on “Sasanian rock reliefs.” Focus on nos. 50, 53, 55, 57, 60, 63, 73, 74, 80, and 81–84. (No. 57 is the site of the inscription ŠKZ on the handout.)

Questions to answer: How do these reliefs portray the kings? What are the kings shown as doing? What symbols did the sculptors use, and why did they use them? Pay attention also to the locations where these reliefs were made. Did their locations have any special meaning? Find and identify the magian priest named Kartir (a.k.a. Kirdir), too.

When you're done studying the reliefs, go back to the main page and click on “Sasanian crowns.” This will give you some close-ups of the elaborate headgear that these kings wore. Each one had a unique crown that can be used to identify him in coins and in other depictions. There are links to images of these coins so you can see for yourself.

Discussion Section: Discussion of readings. Were the Sasanians the heirs of the Achaemenids?

Week 10 (Oct 27, 29 & 31): The Rivalry between the Romans and the Sasanian Persians into the fifth century.

- Read Handout: Shapur's trilingual inscription (ŠKZ) at Naqš-i Rostam.
- Read Dignas and Winter, pp. 32–37, pp. 63–69, pp. 88–99, pp. 131–138, pp. 210–225.

Discussion Section: Study of ŠKZ. Introducing “Pseudo-Joshua the Stylite.” Discussion of Readings.

Week 11 (Nov 3, 5 & 7): The Empires at War.

- Read Excerpt from Ammianus Marcellinus, pp. 148–175 (course reader).
- Read *The Chronicle of Pseudo-Joshua the Stylite* (online through Blackboard site under Content or as a free download through Homer).
- Procopius, *The Wars*, Book 1, chapters xiii–iv, pp. 103–129 [odd pages only] (course reader).
- Read Dignas and Winter, pp. 242–263.

Discussion Section: Discussion of readings.

Week 12 (Nov 10, 12 & 14): Armenia and the Caucasus between the Empires.

- Read Dignas and Winter, pp. 173–195.
- Read *The History of Lazar P'arpec'i*, book 2 (trans. Robert Thomson 1991), pp. 75–157 (course reserve).

Discussion Section: Discussion of readings.

Week 13 (Nov 17, 19, & 21): Persian Ascendancy.

- Read Dignas and Winter, pp. 37–49, pp. 100–118, pp. 138–151, pp. 195–209, pp. 232–241, pp. 263–265.

Discussion Section: Workshop for second essay paper.

Week 14 (Nov 24; lectures on Nov 26 & 28 cancelled due to holidays): The Collapse of the Persian Empire and Muhammad's Movement.

- *Paper 2 due Monday, November 24!* The Historiography of the *Chronicle of Pseudo-Joshua the Stylite*.

Discussion Section: Discussion of readings.

Week 15–16 (Dec 1, 3, 5, & 8): The Ascendancy of Islam. The Legacy of Ancient Iran and the Impact of Ancient Imperialism.

- Read Dignas and Winter, pp. 152–172.
- Read Khalid Yahya Blankinship, “Jihad and the Caliphate before Hishām,” in *The End of the Jihād State: Hishām ibn ‘Abd al-Malik and the Collapse of the Umayyads*, pp. 11–35 (course reader).

Discussion Section: Review for final exam.

Final Exam: As scheduled by the University (in the lecture hall)

GE Rationale for proposed NELC 3111 Ancient Empires

This course fulfills the GE Historical Study category. Expected learning outcomes:

1. Students construct an integrated perspective on history and the factors that shape human activity.
2. Students describe and analyze the origins and nature of contemporary issues.
3. Students speak and write critically about primary and secondary historical sources by examining diverse interpretations of past events and ideas in their historical contexts.

Rationale:

Students will learn fundamental elements of historical sociology to classify and organize information about the earliest territorially extensive ancient states and the peoples they governed. Readings include both primary sources in translation from a variety of ancient languages and non-textual material remains seen in photographs, all analyzed in class and in secondary readings. All sources will be studied and discussed according to their genre and their transmission, survival, or recovery.

Many of the events covered in this course contributed decisively to the demography of the present-day Near East and the social characteristics of its people, from the distribution of language communities to the variety of Near Eastern religions. Students will consider modern manifestations of and parallels to the ancient phenomena studied in this class and reflect on the means and motives for modern persons to identify themselves with ancient social groups.

A pervasive question in this course is how we today know about the past and how we interpret it. Students will compose papers and participate in discussions to practice historically informed critical thinking, having studied ample primary materials, and employ methods for interpreting them.

Assessing Outcomes in NELC 3111 Ancient Empires

This course fulfills the GE category “Historical Study.” We have adopted the best practices from the History Department at OSU in matching the Expected Learning Outcomes to the following rubrics (below). These rubrics are to be used in assessing course outcomes.

ELO1 is met through a combination of student tasks that can be evaluated. Students are expected to understand the basics of the chronology and geography of the ancient Near East and to demonstrate this on quizzes, the midterm, and the final exam. Students demonstrate their integrated understanding of the past through their essays (term papers), one of which asks students to study the value and limitations as sources of information on the past through an array of objects presented in one of their course books. Students study primary sources translated into English from different languages, and one of their analyses is presented as a second essay (term paper).

ELO2 is addressed explicitly through lectures and readings. The students’ first essay deals specifically with this ELO, asking students to analyze objects as arranged by contemporary scholars whose activities are embedded in specific national projects. The students consider both modern (contemporary) presentation of ancient materials as they analyze the materials themselves. (This also furthers the goals of integration articulated in ELO1.)

ELO3 is met through recitation sections, where students are assessed on the basis of their participation and articulate response to the readings and lectures. They are also asked to write two essays which are evaluated not only for their ideas but also for the clarity of presentation of their interpretation of the past through sources understood as a part of a historical context and on the basis of present materials.

Historical Study

Goals:

Students recognize how past events are studied and how they influence today’s society and the human condition.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

1. Students construct an integrated perspective on history and the factors that shape human activity.
2. Students describe and analyze the origins and nature of contemporary issues.
3. Students speak and write critically about primary and secondary historical sources by examining diverse interpretations of past events and ideas in their historical contexts.

	Capstone (4)	Milestone (3)	Milestone (2)	Benchmark (1)
(ELO1) Students construct an integrated perspective on history and the factors that shape human activity.	Demonstrates sophisticated understanding of the complexity of historical events and trends and of explanations of historical change.	Demonstrates adequate understanding of the complexity of historical events and trends and of explanations of historical change.	Demonstrates partial understanding of the complexity of historical events and trends and of explanations of historical change.	Demonstrates surface understanding of the complexity of historical events and trends and of explanations of historical change.
(ELO2) Students describe and analyze the origins and nature of contemporary issues.	Organizes and synthesizes evidence to bring into focus important patterns, differences, or similarities.	Organizes evidence to bring into focus important patterns, differences, or similarities.	Organizes evidence but not in a way that effectively brings into focus important patterns, differences, or similarities.	Presents evidence, but without organization that brings into focus important patterns, differences, or similarities.

<p>(ELO3) Students speak and write critically about primary and secondary historical sources by examining diverse interpretations of past events and ideas in their historical contexts.</p>	<p>Uses evidence to develop an original analysis or synthesis. Skillfully reconciles or refutes differing interpretations and/or conflicting evidence.</p>	<p>Information is taken from source(s) with enough interpretation/evaluation to develop a coherent analysis or synthesis. Makes a significant attempt to reconcile or refute differing interpretations and/or conflicting evidence.</p>	<p>Information is taken from source(s) with some attempt to interpret/evaluate but not enough to develop a coherent analysis or synthesis. Some attempt to reconcile or refute differing interpretations and/or conflicting evidence.</p>	<p>Information is taken from source(s) without interpretation/evaluation. No significant attempt to reconcile or refute differing interpretations and/or conflicting evidence.</p>
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Subject: FW: seeking History Department concurrence for proposed NELC course
Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2015 at 12:57:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Acome, Justin

From: Kevin van Bladel <vanbladel.2@osu.edu>
Date: Thursday, June 25, 2015 at 1:27 PM
To: "Acome, Justin" <acome.1@osu.edu>
Subject: RE: seeking History Department concurrence for proposed NELC course

Justin, revisiting the Ancient Empires proposal, I want to stick to 4 Units and submit it to the system. This is certainly better than sitting on it and wondering whether they will not allow it.

This is the justification for this course's being worth 4 units, which you should feel free to share with interested persons:

1. The course was designed for 4 Units and for a fifteen-week semester of work. It could not have been taught in the old quarter system effectively and I would not have proposed it for a 10-week period. The intensive coverage of primary sources necessitates two formats: lecture *and* group discussion. The course topic requires 3 hours per week of lectures; cutting it to two lectures per week would make it impossible to teach this subject as an integral subject, and the course would cease to meet its General Education purpose so well. The course also requires recitation sections, to check on the students with a GTA, who will work with them more personally in understanding the complicated materials and ancient primary sources and to exemplify and practice with them the methods of analysis taught in the course.

2. The goal of having a 4-unit course is certainly not to pump up teaching output or revenue, although it makes sense that a demanding course is awarded more credit. 4-unit courses with this format are normal at many, many peer universities on the semester system. OSU can try it, too. One course in this format will not shatter OSU's curricular norms.

3. Some may think that students will not take a 4-unit course. Let's try it and see what happens. If it fails after a few years, I will discontinue it or cut the course into two, or attempt some other way. I do think, however, that plenty of students across campus take courses for more than 3 units, and that this course has quality and will attract students. I taught it first for 50, then 100, then 150 students at another university. It grew because it worked. I have tested the course.

4. A lecture course with recitation sections will provide us with an excellent means to train TAs, employing GTAs as supervised apprentices between the extremes of pure functionary graders and solo teachers of their own courses. It will facilitate a better course for students, with more teacher-student contact.

Please include this justification, where the opportunity is present, along with the Ancient Empires course proposal, which should stay as it is.

Thank you, Justin!

Kevin

From: Acome, Justin
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2015 12:34 PM
To: van Bladel, Kevin T.
Subject: Re: seeking History Department concurrence for proposed NELC course

From: <Baker>, Paula <baker.973@osu.edu>
Date: Saturday, January 24, 2015 at 2:42 PM

To: "Acome, Justin" <acome.1@osu.edu>

Subject: RE: seeking History Department concurrence for proposed NELC course

Dear Justin,

The History department's UTC discussed your proposal, and we are happy to offer History's concurrence for Historical Studies GE designation. Our only suggestions concern the title, which seems to imply a broader or comparative course. Suggestions for new titles included "Ancient Empires in the Cradle of Civilization" or one that simply also included the region covered.

Paula Baker

Associate Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies
Department of History



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August 7, 2013

Professor K. Van Bladel

Chair, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures

Dear Professor van Bladel,

It is my pleasure to write a letter of concurrence for your course *Ancient Empires*, which looks like a splendid addition to our offerings in the Ancient World, and fulfills a real need. I also like that it brings together our three departments, and think it has great enrollment potential at OSU. The multi-cultural dimension of the course is particularly welcome.

My best,

Benjamin Acosta-Hughes

Professor and Chair

Subject: RE: seeking History Department concurrence for proposed NELC course
Date: Saturday, January 24, 2015 at 2:42:09 PM Eastern Standard Time
From: Baker, Paula
To: Acome, Justin

Dear Justin,
The History department's UTC discussed your proposal, and we are happy to offer History's concurrence for Historical Studies GE designation. Our only suggestions concern the title, which seems to imply a broader or comparative course. Suggestions for new titles included "Ancient Empires in the Cradle of Civilization" or one that simply also included the region covered.

Paula Baker
Associate Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies
Department of History

From: Acome, Justin
Sent: Friday, January 16, 2015 12:33 PM
To: Baker, Paula
Subject: Re: seeking History Department concurrence for proposed NELC course

Hello Paula,
I'm not sure what happened there; with luck, these will come through.
Justin

Justin Acome
Academic Program Coordinator

Department of Near Eastern Languages & Cultures
Ohio State University
300 Hagerty Hall, 1775 College Rd
Columbus, OH 43210
nelc.osu.edu
(614) 292-4479

From: <Baker>, Paula <baker.973@osu.edu>
Date: Friday, January 16, 2015 at 12:22 PM
To: "Acome, Justin" <acome.1@osu.edu>
Subject: RE: seeking History Department concurrence for proposed NELC course

Justin,
An image file came through but nothing else.
Paula

From: Acome, Justin
Sent: Friday, January 16, 2015 11:43 AM
To: Baker, Paula
Subject: Re: seeking History Department concurrence for proposed NELC course

Dear Paula,
Thank you for writing so quickly.
I'm attaching here the syllabus in question (as well as the other proposal documents, just in case they're useful to you.) Please let me know if you would like us to provide anything else.

Justin

Justin Acome
Academic Program Coordinator

Department of Near Eastern Languages & Cultures
Ohio State University
300 Hagerty Hall, 1775 College Rd
Columbus, OH 43210
nelc.osu.edu
(614) 292-4479

From: <Baker>, Paula <baker.973@osu.edu>
Date: Friday, January 16, 2015 at 11:36 AM
To: "Acome, Justin" <acome.1@osu.edu>
Subject: RE: seeking History Department concurrence for proposed NELC course

Dear Justin,
You should send me a copy to the syllabus. I will review it with our undergraduate teaching committee, and then reply. Generally, an email concurrence is fine.
Paula

From: Ward, Kristina
Sent: Friday, January 16, 2015 11:27 AM
To: Acome, Justin
Cc: Baker, Paula
Subject: RE: seeking History Department concurrence for proposed NELC course

Dear Justin,

I have copied Professor Paula Baker, chair of the Undergraduate Teaching Committee. She handles concurrences for the department and will let you know how best to proceed.

Thanks,
Kristina



Kristina Ward
Administrative Associate
Department of History
106 Dulles Hall | 230 W. 17th Avenue | Columbus, OH 43210
614-292-3001 Office | 614-292-2282 Fax
ward.768@osu.edu history.osu.edu/

From: Acome, Justin
Sent: Friday, January 16, 2015 10:53 AM
To: Ward, Kristina
Subject: seeking History Department concurrence for proposed NELC course

Dear Kristina,
I hope you're not completely the wrong person to be fielding a question like this - I'm making a guess based on your Department's website - but we are in the process of proposing a new undergraduate class and need

to request formal concurrence from your department.

Is there a procedure that History prefers for such things? If so, what do you need me to do? Or if not, what do you suggest I do? I can provide the syllabus and accompanying materials, as well as the Concurrence form pre-filled with our materials. Please let me know what you think is best.

Thank you in advance,

Justin

Justin Acome
Academic Program Coordinator

Department of Near Eastern Languages & Cultures
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